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## New-Dork Dailn Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1879.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-General Roberts's troops are suffering from cold and overwork. ==== The Spanish Senate has approved the bill for the abolition of slavery in Cuba. Secocoeni has surrendered to the British forces. = Five more persons rescued from the Borussia are on board a bark which has been spoken off the Saltee Islands.

DOMESTIC.—Ex-Congressman Rainey says that the Republicans of Virginia are not repudiators because they are working with the Readjusters. = The Republican Congressional Committee alone distributed 1,982,000 campaign documents during the late campaign. Extreme cold is felt in Minnesota. === Brennan, a pugilist, bas had a fight with a dog in St. Louis. == Great progress in public education a forcible resistance has subsided, and is reported from Kansas. == Ex-Governor Mor- that the efforts of the Republicans men for refusing to pay taxes on property rill has written a letter to Governor Garceton, urg- will be concentrated upon an attempt to ing him to submit all legal questions involve the election cases to the Supreme Court.

CITY AND SUBURBAN .-- A vast holiday busines was done yesterday, though the weather was bad. = Stock Exchange brokers had a celebration. === A muticy on an Italian bark which caused four deaths made known. == Edward Scannell shot Henry Wilson in a barroom. —— Pleuro-pneumonia is spreading in Yonkers. —— General Grant visited his mother in Jersey City. Thirty-two men remain in the walkingmatch. === Names of non-residents paying personal taxes are given in THE TRIBUNE. —— Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41219 grains). 37.69 cents. == Stocks dull but higher, and clos-

THE WEATHER .- TEIBUNE local observations in dicate cloudy weather, with rain or snow, fellowed by cooler and clearing weather early in the day. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 41°; lowest. 86°; average, 38%°.

The cattle disease is reported to be spreading in Westchester County, and fears are entertained of an epidemic. It should be one of the first acts of the Legislature to repair the omission of last year, and strengthen the bands of the State Inspectors. It is late to take action, but not too late to prevent much greater damage than has already been done.

Our Loudon correspondent contributes else where an account of the professional and personal qualities of the late Mr. Delane, whose death recently was the result of thirtyseven years' hard work as Editor of The London Times. This critical estimate of a successful journalist derives much of its interest from Mr. Smalley's personal acquaintanceship with Mr. Delane.

Five more castaways from the Borussia have been brought to an English port, making the whole number known to have been saved fifteen out of 234. No news has been received, however, of the vessel; and wille there is still a strange lack of coherence between the various narratives of the sinking. no reason appears for indulging the hope that any large number of her passengers and crew were saved.

Professor Geikie, the well-known Scotch geologist, has been lecturing to the students of Edinburgh University upon his scientific observations during a recent visit to this country. His description of the geological formations in the Far West is of much interest even to the reader who has merely the conventional knowledge of the subject. His accounts of the volcanic phenomena of the Yellowstone region, and of the light shed upon the early history of the Great Salt Lake by the stratification of the surrounding country, deserve especial at-

Pocketbook snatching has developed into a trade, which has some very venthful apprentices. The boy of eighteen whose career in this business was brought to a sudden stop yesterday must have been a veteran. Youth of scarcely more than half his age have God's hand. He must make himself clean and distinguished themselves by similar atsempts in some of the crowded streets | Hence the story of the Mother and Child in

within a few weeks. It would be interesting to know to what cause this should be ascribed—whether the minds of street urchins are inflamed by the flash newspapers, or they are vindicating the wisdom of the theologians who formulated the dogma of infant depravity. One practical suggestion may check the tendency of the young idea in this direction-that the pocketbook snatcher is almost always caught.

There is a homely proverb in the rural districts to the effect that there are more ways than one of skinning a cat. The Forty-second Street, Mauhattanville and St. Nicholas Avenue Railroad Company has discovered, unless rumor does it injustice, that there is more than one way of prolonging a charter. The original grant to the Company allows all time which is consumed in legal proceedings to be deducted from the period at the end of which the franchise may become void. The Company has never exhibited any symptom of an intention to build its road, but the other day an injenction was obtained solemnly restraining it from doing that which it had never attempted to do. While this injunction continues the charter cannot expire. Meanwhile the Legislature will meet, and may possibly renew the charter. The curious feature of the affair is that an enemy of the Company-we all know it must have been an enemy-should have managed unintentionally to be of so much service to the corporation his soul hated.

We present on another page the first of a series of articles which Professor J. S. Newberry will contribute to THE TRIBUNE upon the present condition and outlook of the mining industry. Professor Newberry is an expert of the highest authority upon the subject of mines in the United States, and a man whose judgment mine-owners everywhere seek and accept implicitly on all disputed points. This series of articles will embody not only the results of his long experience and close study, but also the fruits of his latest observations made during a recent trip to the mining region. The paper printed to-day is introductory and general in its nature, reviewing the history of mining fevers in the past, and expressing the hope, at least, that we may now escape an epidemic of reckless speculation. Professor Newberry shows that the business of mining must be managed on business-like principles, and that when so conducted it is extremely profitable and at the same time safe, instead of being, as it is commonly supposed, wildly hazardous and uncertain. His suggestions on these points will attract the attention not only of the large class who are interested in mines, but of the still larger class who are contemplating such investments.

The dispatches from Maine to-day suggest the curious contingency that the fraud plot may fail because Governor Garcelon and his colleagues did not go quite far enough in their wicked work. According to the election which was had in the Council Chamber, seventyeight Fusion members were chosen to the House out of a total of 151. Should only three of these seventy-eight men revolt at the crime in which they are expected to participate, the Fusion majority would disappear, and it would be possible for the Republicans, by withdrawing, to leave the House without a quorum. The possibility that some of these men may have consciences has suddenly suggested itself to the Fusionist leaders, who are said to be watching their men "closely." To one of them they are probably listening closely, inasmuch as he has published over his own name a denunciation of the fraud in unmeasured terms. If there are two more such just men in Sodom, the Maine fraud will be in a fair way to be defeated. The dispatches also indicate that the brief whirl of talk about prevent the organization of the House. They are steadily at work, however, keeping the nature of the crime vividly before the moral sense of the country. Ex-Senator Morrill's letter to Governor Garcelon, asking him to use his constitutional power to call, on solemn occasions, upon the judges of the highest court of the State for legal decisions, and to submit the whole case to them, is a flank movement. It proves the willingness of the Republicans to submit their claims to an impartial tribunal. It is likely to be evaded or rejected, and either evasion or rejection will show that the fraud party fear an honest decision.

THE CHILD AND CHILDREN.

Yesterday the streets of New-York were full of dramatic hints of the home life of the people, and one of the most significant and pathetic was the number of shabby women and laborers going home from their work who crowded in the evening into the shops. wistfully fingering some pretty toy or bit of finery for the baby at home. They could not afford to buy it-that was plain enough on their faces; but they always bought it, and went the happier. Baby is King in the cellars and tenement-houses. See him when he is taken out from them to walk. On Sunday afternoon, no matter how worn and patched is his father's coat or mother's gown, he wears a feather or a scrap of lace. It is the remembrance of his little red face that gives his mother strength through the long, hungry week, and keeps his ignorant, brutish father steady at his work and out of the dram-shop. He is the one gleam of innocence, of hope, of pure ambition in their sordid lives. It is for him that they deny themselves, or try to struggle up out of the level of the slough in which they were born.

Take the town at different levels and you will find the same story a million times reduplicated. There is a little morsel of flesh swathed in costly lace, around whose cradle a worldly fashionable family gather to-day and grow human and tender and forget money and fashion. It is for his boy that old gray haired Crossus toils over his ledger or gambles in stocks. It is to give "the child" a better chance than they have ever had for happiness and fortune that hundreds and thousands of over-worked middle-class men are drudging to-day, and will go on dradging to the end and die with the harness on. Go where you will it is the same, in Iceland buts and imperial palnces. The tond, half-divine folly repeats itself in every condition and in every age, list of those ,who have sworn off the What do our womout lives matter after all ? tax altogether. It will be found that we say-our youthful ambitions and plans that faded out before middle age? It is our child that will be happy and famous. It is he for whom plans are needed; he is the thane that may be King hereafter. On each of these little ones fails the reflected light from the Divine Babe who was born in the manger. The coarsest man approaches a child with the feeling that it is a something pure, fresh from

honest for its sake.

the Stable comes home to the most irreligious of us with a human pathos and force out of our own experience, which can never be argued or sneered away. Hence the sig-nificant fact that for nearly nineteen centuries there has been one day in each year set apart as sacred to that Divine Child, and through Him to all children. He loved; therefore, they must be made happy. It is the only anniversary which has been kept by different nations unbroken through time. The world perpetually gives itself up to one bruit or blaze of splendor after another. Now it is this imperial conqueror who is to live forever, now that. Now it is a revolution in dynasties or in science which is to work a permanent change in all things. Yet, one by one, each drops into its proper place and becomes insignificant, but the Immortal Babe in its manger lives on; and the Kings from the East bring their offerings to Him, and the poor Hebrew berders are sent from their dreary watch on the hillside to find beaven in his face; and as age follows age the world goes with them to worship at His feet, and there flud rest and comfort.

This picture of the Mother and Child, so dear to us all, is no poetic fancy. There is a reality in the life and death of Jesus broad and solid enough to underlie the present civilization of the world and the needs of each individual man. But it is His childhood to which we do bomage to-day. And we, busy modern New-Yorkers, bow to it as did the Kings of Chaldea and Tarshish, because we recognize that in the birth of that Infant in the stable was the birth into the world of a human courage, truth, and self-sacrifice unknown before. The kings and the poor Hebrews knew that they needed these things; they gave their gifts of gold and myrrh, in acknowledgment of their need. So do we know it. When we go about to-day with our hearts full, giving our little signs of love to each other, trying to make some hungry woman or little child happier because Christmas has come, we are only in our poor way trying to show our recognition and our need of that Divine Love and unselfishness which came to us with the Child in the Stable eighteen centuries ago.

REFORM THE TAX LAWS.

Out of 350,556 persons residing in this city, and engaged in some gainful occupation, only 12,809 are assessed at all for taxation on personal property; 6,285 of these made no excuse or return, 5165 swore that they had no personal property subject to taxation. and only 1,359 persons admitted that they had any such property. It may be supposed, perhaps, that the women, the youths, and the aged men who are engaged in gainful ocenpations, have as a rule accumulated scarcely any property. But there remain 254,770 males, from 16 to 59 years of age, who are earning a livelihood in some profitable employment, and yet there are only 1,359 persons of both sexes who admit that they have any personal property subject to taxa-

The bitter complaints which have been made from time to time regarding the evasion of taxation by individuals and corporations known to be wealthy have almost wholly missed effect because they have been based upon the assumption that the fault lay with the individuals or corporations, and not with the laws under which they claim exemption. But the investigation which THE TRIBUNE has commenced will show that the fault lies mainly with the law. The system of assessment and taxation is utterly unworthy of a civilized community. It enables the very men to escape taxation wholly, or almost wholly, who are best able to bear public burdens, who have the largest property interests demanding protection at the hands of the Government, and who, therefore, ought to contribute most to the support of the Government. It is unjust, as well as a waste of time, to blame these discriminate accurately between wrongfully and those who rightfully claim exemption, because the laws are so framed that they open countless doors for evasion: render it almost impossible many a man to determine, even by the most conscientious scrutiny of his own affairs, what part of his property should legally be taxed; and make it quite impossible for officials to guard against fraud on the part of those who wish wrougfully to evade taxation. If is the part of common sense and common justice to waste no more time in fruitless censure of individuals, but to arouse public opinion to demand a thorough reform of the system of assessment and taxation.

Facts already published have demonstrated that this city pays its full share of taxation upon personal property, and its full share of all taxation, but that the burden which the people of the city bear is not equitably distributed. In fact, the distribution is outrageously unjust. The 1,359 residents who pay taxes on personal property bear many times as great a burden in the aggregate as they should bear, but even among them the taxation is most unjustly distributed. Some pay a great deal less than they should, and in consequence others have to pay a great deal more than they should. The assessed valuation of personal property in 1878 was only \$197,532.075, and the tax levied was \$5,459,666 77, so that the average rate, 2.76 per cent, was more than half the average interest or profit on money invested. But had the same tax been levied on the true value of all personal property without exemption or evasion. the rate would not have been more than one-half of one per cent. In effect, more than four-fifths of the personal property is exempted, or by defective laws enabled to evade taxation, and in consequence the tax borne by the remaining personal property is at least five times as heavy as it should be. The fact that those who wrongfully swear off or swear down their taxes really rob their neighbors is of small consequence, compared with the other fact that the laws themselves really rob the owners of one-fifth of the personal property for the benefit of the owners of the remaining four-

fitths. We publish to-day the list of those nonresidents who admit owning property subject to taxation, but have sworn down their assessments, and we shall follow it at

to expect that taxes can be made reasonably light or fairly adjusted.

UNSEAWORTHY SHIPS.

A few months ago there was an animated discussion in the English papers over the frequency of the sort of ocean disasters of which the loss of the Borussia has just furnished an example. When a ship strikes upon the coast, or runs into an iceberg, or is in collision with another vessel, or takes fire, there has been almost always some fault of the crew, and we can show how the accident might have been avoided. But a large proportion of the ships lost at sea wholly disappear, leaving no record of their fate, and we can only conjecture what happened to them and what was the cause of their destruction. Few persons realize how common such dis asters are. The suip sails away from port and is heard of no more. There is a long period of anxiety before hope is abandoned; and meanwhile, unless the vessel is well known and the passenger list large, the general public forgets all about the case-perhaps does not even hear of it. We have before us a list of steamships only which have sunk on the voyare between Europe and America within ten years. It does not include wrecks on the coast or losses by burning or collision; merely the steamers which have foundered, or have been abandoned sinking, or are missing with all on board. The number amounts to no less than thirty-four, and it is certainly not complete. During a little more than two months of the Winter of 1872-'73 one transatlantic steamer was capsized, two foundered, one was abandoned at sea, and five were reported missing-a total of nine during a single season-besides which the year 1872 was signalized by ten European steamers "wrecked," The year 1878 was also very disastrons, and the list of missing or abandoned transatlantic steamships in 1879 amounts so far to no fewer than seven. Sixteen have gone down within

three years. Most of the missing vessels were freightboats carrying few passengers, and the aggregate loss of life is not known, though it certainly ranges in the thousands. It has been remarked that these steamers were nearly all of British build; but it does not appear that the ratio to the total number of British ships in the American trade was unduly large. It is also noticed that a considerable majority of them were employed in carrying wheat, and it is suggested that the swelling of grain improperly stowed may have caused them to spring a leak. To this it may be answered that most of the disasters occur in the stormy season of Winter, and that nearly all the outward bound freight-boats at that time of the year are loaded with breadstuffs. The great number of missing steamers however, and the fact that they are almost invariably vessels of one particular class, may well prompt a closer inquiry into the causes of these losses than any official authority has yet thought of making. They seem hardly to belong to the category of unavoidable accidents.

As a rule we believe it will be found that missing steamers are either vessels which have been degraded from the first-class passenger service on account of age or other defect, or else boats too small and too weakly built for the dangers of the wintry Atlantic, or boats with insufficient engine power. Very many of the steamers sent out of this port with grain are small and low in the water, and not only is their machinery weak but they are obliged to economize too much in the consumption of fuel. Seas over which the better class of ships ride easily will sweep them from stem to stern. The staunch and full-powered passenger steamers of the New-York and Liverpool, Glasgow, Bremen, Hamburg, and Havre lines are hardly impeded by the most tempestuous weather. They make which the law exempts. Nor is it possible to their trips, Winter after Winter, with regularity, and it is extremely rare for them to sustain any serious injury from the utmost violence of the elements. If, nevertheless, while these ships pass safely through the worst storms, there is not a season in which four or five or more freight steamers are not swallowed up by the angry deep, it is almost impossible to resist the conviction that the owners of the missing craft conduct their business with a criminal disregard of human life, holding it cheaper in the long run to drown a few hundred sailors than to pay for ships that will float.

> A WANT THAT HAS LONG BEEN FELT. The inability of the private citizen and the average public journalist to express in adequate language the tumultuous emotions excited by the fraud in Maine has been during the past fortnight a general and distressing grievance. Indignation meetings have been held; speeches have been made; severe leading articles have appeared in the Republican press; spiteful and contemptuous paragraphs have been written by Democratic editors who foresee the ulterior consequences of the rascality; yet still it is felt that justice has not been done to "the con-"spiracy of force and fraud which, after "short incubation, chipped shell on the "morrow of the election of" September, 1879. "Forasmuch as the plot to filch" the Governorship and the Legislature, " from the elect of the "people, besides its two qualities of fraud and force, had two periods and parts," to wit, namely, that is to say, the primary part and fraudulent groundwork of the conspiracy which consisted in the stealing of the State, and the final enormity which looked to the heaping up and cementing of the crime in debauchment and dishonor by the stealing of the electoral vote, it is obvious that the venal infamy ought to be denounced in a kind of English entirely different from that employed on commonplace subjects, and by some personage raised considerably above the level of ordinary American citizens, The whole country in fact is suffering for the want of a sufficiently stylish denouncer.

In this difficulty we turn instinctively to the custodian of the Ark and Shechinah of our Seli-Government. Now that the flagitious scheme is flagrant in all its parts, who but Moses is able so to Ring Fire Bell in Night as to "petri'y the 'flerce Democracie' them-"selves in all their popular assemblies," and by a thorough exposure of the complet "to by a thorough exposure of the complete to a sharp and the first convenient opportunity with the bird of those who have sworn off the tax altogether. It will be found that many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the city are many of the richest men in the people, their volitions and their power, imperatively due. Whoever can believe that Moses would have appealed against the conspiracy to the majority of cases. The laws which make unjust, unreasonable, and iniquitous distinctions between classes of personal property which ought to be equally taxed, are responsible for a great part of the unfairness and oppressivement a great part of the unfairness and oppressivement as great part of the wrongful evasions which in the prople of sovereignty—by proxy only, and the purple of sovereignty—by proxy only, and the prople of sovereignty—by proxy only, and the proplement of the system it will be-folly in the dragonnade menas and the proplement of the system it will be-folly in the proplement of the system it will be-folly in the proplement of the system it will be adapt the proplement of the system it will be-folly in the proplement of the system of the system in the proplement of the system of the

"till the first dragonnade led by a savior of society." The transaction in Maine presents all the characteristics of crime which most violently stir the gorge of Moses. The "falsification of the vote and voice of the people at the ballot-box," the premeditated reversal of the actual returns," the "subornation of deputized go-betweens," the hypocrisy of "arch-primates of treason," -all these denotements are found in connection with the Maine sensation. What a boon it would be to the country if "an inflexible Moses, always standing fast in the final 'citadel of power, the keen bright sunlight of publicity, would shrivel and consume the conspiracy root and branch" in the flame of his blazing language! If indeed he had only Rung Fire-Bell in Night about a month then "threats must have risked "their life in acts - and threateners "too. For nothing but such rank treason and "red-handed violence could have enthroned "the beneficiary of their crime. Nor kept "him seated for a single hour, unless in-"deed the Anglo-Saxon blood of the founders of this Republic be milk in the veins of

their sons " Bring forth Moses! Pry open the Ark, and produce the arsenals of ammunition which he has stowed there, and the lethal weapons fashioned to the hand of every hater of fraud. Nobody but Moses is competent to deal with this subject. Nobody but the man who came so near "putting Uncle Sammy through and ending the reign of thieves," can fitly stigmatize the revolutionary usurpation, or "rivet 'the people's gaze upon the champions of the people's rights." Nobody can denounce the copareeny of spoils in properly highshouldered words save the illustrious statesman, patriet, publicist and scholar who transmitted the Bolivia "giving vote of one Republican of Board or his concurrence in court action preventing electors' vote from being cast for half-hundred best United "States Documents." Bring forth Moses!

"Merry Chri, mas!" to everybody-even Garce

There is a good deal of amusing speculation concerning the authorship of the Maine theft. One of the latest theories comes from Washington to the effect that Tilden concocted the scheme for the purpose of calling the public attention afresh to the Louisiana swindle" in 1876. Tilden's slyness is of a finer quality than that. He knows better than to try to strengthen the fraud cry by showing that his party only needs a chance to prove its own pro-fictency as a fraud expert. Another theory charges the responsibility of invention upon General Butler. This is in accordance with long standing precedent. There has been no public scandal in this country for years which has not sooner or later become tangled up with Butler's name.

No wonder the Calamity statesmen are out of business in a country where the farmers increase their business \$416,000,000 in one year!

The Democratic turkey will be butter with fraud to-day. Garcelon put it in.

Voorbees is said to be in favor of conducting his exodus investigation in Washington, so that only such witnesses as he desires may be summoned. There was a witness in Washington recently who could have given some testimony bearing directly on the question. He was a colored emigrant from the North Carolina district which has a 12,000 Republican majority, but which has a 12,000 Republican majority, but which is represented in Congress by ex-Confederate Kitchen, who pretends to have been elected by over 1,000 Democratic majority. "Yes, we kin vote," said the sable philosopher, "but de votes don't count much, an' dat's how come Kitchen heab."

E. F. Pillsbury, the leader of the Maine band of Democratic burglars, has an American flag floating from his office in honor of the "glorious victory." A black flag would be much more appropriate.

That spiked fraud gun might as well be turned into a hitching-post for the Democratic donkey.

The World broke out all over yesterday with the following stirring conundrum: "Suppose Horatic Seymour nominated for the Presidency in 1880. Does anybody suppose Grant could carry this State against him ?" Don't stir up bygones so recklessly, neighbor. You know Grant did carry this State against Seymour in 1868, and that Tweed counted him out. Tweed being out of the way now, Seymour is consequently a much, weaker candidate.

Beck says the Democrats want for a Presidential candidate "a robust, straightforward, outspoken man, who can get on the stump, look us straight in the eyes and say just what he means." When he was asked if Tilden mer that description, he answered: "Oh, we'h vote for him if he's put up," Of course. The party likes turkey as well as anybody, but it will take crow rather than go hungry.

Tilden didn't bang his stocking for fear the Democracy would put an infernal machine in it. Senator Booth says Blaine is undoubtedly the first

hoice of California Republicaus, that he can have the delegation if he wants it, and that, if nominated, he will carry the State without a doubt. The sentiment of the State is opposed to a third term under other than exceptional circumstances. The trouble with that Joel Parker Blizzard seems

to be that its axis is stuck fast in the sands of Monmouth County. It continues to excite itself into occasional fits of rotary violence, but a Blizzard with a stationary centre can't tear up things over such of an area.

South Carolina will have to annex something There doesn't seem to be room enough within the present limits of that Commonwealth for two statesmen of such dimensions as Gary and Hampton.

The solemn business of placing the name of Hendricks at the head of its columns, as the Democratic candidate in 1880, has once more been performed by his personal organ in Indianapolis. The instalment of flapdoodle which accompanies the "placing" is much less exuberant than heretofore, and the editor remarks with a tinge of mournfulness that he is taking no new departure. He certainly is not. This is the fourth or fifth time the pame has been hoisted in the same place, but never with a better prospect than now of being hauled down in advance of the battle. Having straidled every-thing within sight during his lite, Hendricks is now rounding off his career by obstinately straidling his own political grave.

The Tilden organs in this State are demonstrat ing that Tammany will be able to make no trouble in the National Convention next year. Tammany has confessed as much by refraining from threatening to make any in case Tilden is nominated.

PERSONAL.

Bishop Gilbert Haven is better, and his physicians

predict his recovery. Mr. Frederick Seward and his wife will spend the Winter in travelling for the benefit of Mrs. Seward's

Count Roger de Grimberghe, a wealthy Belgian who died recently, has bequeathed 500,000 francs to the city of Brusseis to be expended in the erection of a hourse on the seaside for the temporary reception of the sick children of the city poor. It is a

ble example. Professor Ko Kun Hua has added to the mass of literature in Massachusetts by presenting to Harvard library a volume entitled "Verses Composed in the Hall of Longevity." It is a small volume, printed at Nuggo, and as it is in the best Chinese, is not at present quite accessible to the average undergraduate.

met there Mr. Jesse Grant, that her heart was

The President, The Press of Philadelphia says, is expected to arrive in that city to-morrow or Saturday, to call upon General Grant. It is added that Mr. Hayes has written to the General, asking him to be his guest at the White House at any and all times that it may suit his convenience. The President says that himself and family would feel themselves honored, and that it would give them great pleasure to entertain the General and Mrs. Grant as their guests.

When the Emperor William received the news of the attempt on the life of the Czar he became, it is said, very serious, and after remaining silent for some minutes, he said in a tone at once melaucholy and energetic: "If we do not change the direction of our policy, if we do not think seriously of giving sound instruction to youth, if we do not give the first place to religion, if we only pretend to govern by expedients from day to day, our thrones will be overturned, and society will become a prey to the most terrible events. We have no more time to lose, and it will be a great misfortune if all the Governments do not come to an accord in this saintary work of repression."

ST. PETERSBURG. Dec. 24.-The Vedemosti ancounces that Prince Dolgorouki, Governor-General of Moscow, intends to resign on account of illhealth. General Ignatieff and Count Schouvaloff are mentioned as possible candidates far the post. London, Dec. 24.—The latest bulletin from Can-

nes, dated the 22d inst., says that the condition of the Empress of Russia is unimproved. ROME, Dec. 24.—Russian officials have arrived at

Catania, Sicily, where they will select apartments Berlin, Dec. 24.-The Emperor William stum

bled on the stairs of the theatre two days ago and hurt his knee. He has recovered and now drives

GENERAL NOTES.

A little four-year-old was borrowed by the manager of the Eiko (Nev.) Theatre, to personate the consumptive child of Lady Isabei in " East Lynne," in the touching death-scene at the close of the act repre-senting the wretched mother's return from her self-imposed exile. While the audience were being moved to ears by the impassioned agony of the fond mother, poured out at the bedside of her dying child, and jusboth the moment that she exclaimed in broken-heasted accents. "He is dead!" the little chap, who had up to this point been kept quiet with difficulty, could stand it no longer, and instantly resented the accusation by exclaiming in a voice distinctly heard through the house, "I am't dead, neither!"

The political cartoons in the Berlin Punch, Kladderanaisch, are invariably course. In the issue of December 7, Lord Beaconsfield, Prince Gortschakoff and the Sultan are represented in the guise of three patients in an hospital, the last very ill and prostrate, the others able to sit up, but suffering severely from overloaded stomach. On that of the Prime Minister is written " Ireland, Afghanistan;" and on that of the Russian Chancellor "Nihitism, Asia." The Sultan is morbund. To the state-men the doctor is prescribing that for a long time to come they should take nothing but domestic food, nothing from outside the house, and should confine their exercise to gentle gymnastics in their own spartment.

Professor Swing demonstrates, in The Alliance, that this will be the most important Christman the world has ever seen. It will surpass all before it for several reasons. A casual thought will make all admit that had Adam and Eve kept Christmas it would have been a poor affair, not simply because they had no stockings to hang up, but because of the fewness of children in the earth at that time. Now, by analogy of reasoning, this Caristmas will be the greatest of all history, be cause there are more boys and girls in the world now, by a million or so, then ever there were on earth at any former date. And as woste sheep yield more wood than black sheep because there are more of them, so will the guadness of the calldren this year excel all former glow and laughter, because there are more of the children.

On the day of the Czar's return to St. Petersburg the Revolutionary Committee issued a violent proclamation in which the gunpowder plot at Moscow was justified and declared to have been at tempted by their order. They announced, furthermore, that such attempts would be continued until the despote authority of the Czar should be transferred to an assembly freely elected by universal suffrage and provided with instructions by its electors. Then only provided with instructions by its electors. Then only will the committee reave Alexander II. In peace, "and forgive him all his offences." "Until then," continues the committee, "a struggle, an implacable struggle, while there remains in us a drop of blood, until over the rains of despotism there waves the standard of national liberty, and the will of the people shall become the law of Russian life. We appear to all Russian elizants to support our party in this struggle."

Miss Parnell's recent letter to THE TRIBUNE eads the London correspondent of The Liverpool Mer cury to remark that she is more solicitous for the repunell," continues the correspondent, "bas spoken con-stantly at meetings in Ireland, and hearing shouts of "Shoot the landlords" going up, has contented himself with saying mildly that he did not recommend that course. No warmer indignation has come from him; no stronger expression from him. There has been no assumption of horror at assassination, no attempt to open the eyes of the peasants to the eternal truth of the sixth commandment. Only a setting aside of the awful desire to become responsible for it. Yet when an American journal says that he smiles at the suggestion of exterminating landlords, his sister writes in indignation that her brother is not known, or such things would not that her brother is not known, or such things would not be said. Now, I do know Mr. Parnell, and he always struck me as a good man but a fanatic, clever but obstinate, and absolutely impervious to ordinary arguments, but exceedingly ready to modify his expressions if they endangered his position. He may, therefore, be blind to the dangers be is bringing upon in-land by not denouncing the very first whisper of assassination. In that case it would be quite as sisterly to open his eyes to what he is doing as to write explanations of his original goodness to American Journals."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

At Koster & Bial's concert hall in Twentythird-st., this evening, several new musical features ar to be introduced, and Mr. Levy, the cornet soloist, will perform some pieces especially arranged for the occa-

A minstrel company and troupe of colored jubilee singers have been introduced into the plantation scene in Uncle Tom's Cabin at the Aquaridm, and some special features for this afternoon and evening's per-

PUBLIC OPINION.

Tilden is tough. Trouble does not tire him

It is not improbable that the result of the Democrate frauds in Maine will be to make James G. Blaine President of the United States. The Democrate of Maine are as long-headed as a mule.—[Stoux City Journal (Rep.) If this country is cursed by too much legislation, it is tr-bly enreed by Congressional investiga-tion into trivial matters which are of only local import-ance, and solely within 50c province of local authori-ties.—[M.Iw aukes Sentinel (Rep.)

We shall not engage in any war upon Mr. Sherman. We fear B aine more than we fear Sherman, as the occupant of the Waite House. We cannot be very desirous to try the experiment of electing Grant. His election might be the last under the Constitution.—(Richmond Dispatch (Dem.)

TILDEN NOT A BOLD BRIGAND.

From The New Fork Evening Express (Tam. Dem.)

The idea that Tilden suggested the course adopted by Governor Garcelon and his council is preposterous. They have shown backbone, a possession he knows nothing about. They have courage to stand by the Constitution and laws, while he is a coward and sneak. Besides, the old man shivers like a paralyte at the possible harm that may come to him from Governor Garcelon's brave action.

SHERMAN'S STRENGTH.

From The New-London Telegram (Rep.)

We fully agree with THE NEW-YORK TRIB-

We fully agree with THE NEW-YORK TRIB-UNE that they make a great mistake who fancy that John Sherman can be left out of the "calculation," in the campaign now opening. His boom is quieter and less cretentions than the Grant boom or the Blaims boom, but it has decided elements of strength and is quite likely to turn out more than it halls. While Secre-tary Sherman lacks the magnetism of Blaine and is not calculated to inspire any noisy enthusiasm, he possesses the entire confidence of the business interests of the country and is rightfully regarded as entitled to a large stare of credit in bringing to a successful consummation the act providing for the resamption of specie payment, of which he was the author. He possesses in a return's able degree the confidence of the merchants, bankers and "solid men," and his strength with those classes is by no means confined to the Republican party.